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The Claims

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method for translating control messages between a network manager and a router, the method comprising:

intercepting an input command message intended for said router, said router partitioned into a plurality of logical router partitions, said input command message expressed in terms of a logical router partition;

translating the logical router partition expressed in said input command message into a physical router expression; and

propagating said input command message, including any translated expressions, toward said router.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of translating comprises: translating a logical target identifier to a physical router target identifier.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said intercepting step comprises: indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of said input command message.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

intercepting a return message from the router, said return message expressed in physical router terms;

translating said physical router expression of said return message into a logical router partition and

propagating said translated return message toward said network manager.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said step of translating said physical router expression comprises:

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translating a physical router target identifier to a logical target identifier.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising determining said logical target identifier from a return correlation tag of said return message and an said index, an said input and the return correlation tags having a predetermined relationship.

7. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the return message comprises at least one of a command response message and an acknowledgment message.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

intercepting an autonomous message from one of the network elements, said autonomous message expressed in terms of an access identifier;
matching the access identifier with an associated logical target identifier;
translating the physical router target identifier to the logical target identifier; and
propagating the translated autonomous message toward the network manager.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the autonomous message comprises an alarm message.

10. (currently amended) A method for translating control messages between a network manager and a router, said router represented as a plurality of logical partitions, said method comprising:

intercepting an input ~~translation~~transaction language (TL1) message from the network manager intended for the router, wherein the first TL1 message is expressed with a logical target identifier;

translating the logical target identifier of the intercepted input TL1 message to a physical router target identifier; and

propagating the TL1 message, including any translated expressions, toward the router.

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11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein said intercepting step further comprises:
indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of said input TL1 message.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
intercepting a return ~~translation~~transaction language (TL1) message from the router to the network manager, wherein the return TL1 message is expressed with a physical router target identifier;
translating the physical router target identifier of the intercepted return TL1 message to a logical target identifier; and
propagating the TL1 message, including any translated expressions, toward the router.
13. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising determining said logical target identifier from a return correlation tag of said return message and said index, wherein said input and return correlation tags are equivalent.
14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the return TL1 message comprises at least one of a command response message and an acknowledgement message.
15. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
intercepting an autonomous TL1 message from one of the network elements, said autonomous TL1 message expressed in terms of an access identifier;
matching the access identifier with an associated logical target identifier;
translating the physical router target identifier to the logical target identifier; and
propagating the autonomous message, including any translated expressions, toward the network manager.

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16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the autonomous TL1 message comprises an alarm message.
17. (currently amended) Apparatus for routing control messages between a network manager and a router, comprising:
- means for intercepting an input command message intended for said router, said router partitioned into a plurality of logical router partitions, said input command message expressed in terms of a logical router partition;
 - means for translating each logical router partition expressed in said input command message into a physical router expression;
 - means for propagating the input command TL1 message, including any translated expressions, toward the router.
18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said translating means comprises: translating a logical target identifier to a physical router target identifier.
19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said intercepting step comprises: means for indexing said logical target identifier with an input correlation tag of said input command message.
20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:
- means for intercepting a return message from the router, said return message expressed in physical router terms;
 - means for translating said physical router expression of said return message into a logical router partition; and
 - means for propagating said return message, including any translated expressions, toward said network manager.